REMARKS

The office action of December 8, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the last filed amendment is objected for introducing new matter.

Claims 1-8, 11, 12 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Suga et al.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Suga et al. in view of the patent to Schram.

Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Suga et al. in view of the patent to Rapp et al.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1 and 14.

Applicant has amended claim 14 to address the new matter objection raised by the Examiner. Claim 14 now recites a "disk plane", which was previously found in original claim 14. The

previously recited "disk place" was a typographical error.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection based on new matter is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Suga et al., the valve groups as argued by the Examiner in connection with Fig. 4a, do not have a rim heightening from the ring component 407 that extends in the direction of valve through-flow (see Fig. 4b), but rather in the opposite direction. Furthermore, in Suga et al. the spring component 401 is clamped between the plate 404 and the ring shaped member 407 so that the spring component is covered on both sides, and thus is not entirely free on one side, as in the presently claimed invention.

The presently claimed invention provides a micropump that can be produced with minimal cost and effort while with high precision required for this type of product. Pursuant to the present

invention, the valve modules can be produced with only two steps, namely the spring component is placed in the recess and welded to the floor plate. During placement of the spring component it is automatically centered by the rim heightening so that after welding to the floor plate it is in the exact position needed for the valve function to take place. Such a structure is not disclosed by Suga et al.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-8, 11, 12 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The remaining references have also been considered. Applicant submits that they add nothing to the teachings of Suga et al. so as to teach the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 9, 10 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By
Klaus P. Stoffel
Reg. No. 31,668
For: Friedrich Kueffner
Reg. No. 29,482
317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910
New York, New York 10017
(212) 986-3114

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 7, 2009.

By: _____
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: April 7, 2009